

CHALLENGE



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IMPERIALIST TENSIONS GROW WORLD WAR INEVITABLE



Protesters in Los Angeles burn a piñata of Donald Trump

In his first few weeks in office, imperialist-in-chief Donald Trump has shown his willingness to serve the U.S. ruling class’s murderous war machine. From putting Iran “on notice” to openly threatening to block China’s expansion into the South China Sea, Trump is desperate to project the appearance of strength in an ever-weakening U.S. empire. He has escalated Barack Obama’s murderous war in Yemen (see page 2) while continuing to amass troops on Russia’s doorstep, inching the world closer to World War III.

The U.S. ruling class and its massive military, once the world’s leading superpower, now operate in a world where the Russian and Chinese imperialists are challenging U.S. bosses for control over resources and profits. All three imperialist powers understand that Eurasia—the gigantic landmass composed of Europe and Asia—is the key to global supremacy. To control it, they are willing to slaughter the world’s working class.

Russia’s bosses continue to test their U.S. rivals on multiple fronts. In the space of one week in

February, Russia secretly deployed an intermediate-range cruise missile in violation of a Cold War-era nuclear forces treaty; stationed a spy ship 30 miles off the coast of Connecticut; and sent four aircraft to buzz a U.S. destroyer in the Black Sea. In the face of disarray in the Trump administration, and the steady weakening of the U.S. empire, the Russian bosses are growing bolder by the day.

These incidents came on the heels of a wave of anti-Russia warmongering. Democrats first fanned the flames of this hysteria after it was alleged that Russia hacked the Democratic National Committee to disrupt last fall’s presidential election. Ever since, the bosses’ media has been in a frenzy to intensify it.

Bosses Doubting Trump

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has sent out a tangle of mixed signals on both Russia and China, provoking concern within the dominant finance capital wing of the U.S. ruling class about the new president’s reliability. Trump’s leader-

ship has been openly questioned by two main-wing insiders, General Tony Thomas, head of the U.S. military’s Special Operations Command, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor under President Jimmy Carter. A third ruling-class mainstay, Senator John McCain, told international leaders at the Munich Security Conference that the administration was “in disarray.”

In an Op Ed piece in the February 20 New York Times, Brzezinski attacked “the sometimes irresponsible, uncoordinated and ignorant statements” of Trump’s team. He also gave voice to the bosses’ concern that Trump was slighting China and thereby increasing “the danger that China and Russia could form a strategic alliance.” The U.S. bosses know that China is their most dangerous long-term rival. They also know they aren’t yet ready to go to war with the Chinese rulers. It’s no accident that Trump reaffirmed his support of the “One China” policy on February 9, less than two months after he threatened to abandon it—a stance that was unacceptable to Beijing.

On February 14, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer declared that Trump now expects Russia to “de-escalate violence in Ukraine and return Crimea” to Kiev. But in the next breath, Spicer said: “At the same time, he fully expects to and wants to get along with Russia” (Reuters, 2/14). In the midst of this posturing and confusion, the New York Times revealed that Trump sent two emissaries to broker a backdoor “peace plan” that could enable Crimea to be “leased” to Russia for up to 100 years (2/20). For its part, Russia has shown no signs of backing down. For the Russian ruling class, exerting their influence in Ukraine and waging war in Syria are ways to validate their superpower status and extend their global reach.

The bosses are doing their best to surround Trump with people it trusts, like Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, and weed out the people they don’t. On February 13, National Security Advisor Michael Flynn was forced out by a barrage of leaks over his pre-inaugural discussions with the Russian ambassador on possible relief of U.S. sanctions. Trump was apparently persuaded or pressured to replace Flynn with General H.R. McMaster, a ruling class-approved strategist who has

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Tremors of Imperialist Rivalries

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long sounded the alarm over Russia’s increasing military capability.

McMaster is “the opposite [of Flynn]—a careful scholar and successful general who’s well-regarded in the Washington foreign policy establishment” (Vox, 2/20). But the bosses still worry about the influence of rogue advisors like Stephen Bannon, the white supremacist and former Goldman Sachs banker who now serves as White House chief strategist, with a seat on the National Security Council:

In practice, it’s far from clear how much influence McMaster will actually have over a president who seems deeply skeptical of people outside his immediate circle and information that troubles his basic worldview (Vox, 2/20).

NATO Instability

At this point, it’s impossible to be certain about Trump’s worldview and where it will lead. His slamming of the European Union and NATO (which he has called “obsolete”) has unsettled U.S.-European relations more than at any time since World War II. Mattis initially told NATO allies that if they didn’t pay their fair share, the U.S. might not come to their defense. He later reassured NATO leaders of U.S. commitment to the alliance, calling it “a fundamental bedrock for the United States and for all the transatlantic community” (reuters.com 2/15). The U.S. ruling class’s wavering commitment to its European alliances reveals a deeper crisis within the center of U.S. imperialism.

To calm U.S. allies in Europe, Mattis has rejected closer military ties with Russia. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, despite his recent ties to Russia as Exxon’s CEO, also reassured foreign leaders that the U.S. will remain firm with Russia. But there is little the U.S. can do to counter Europe’s growing internal instability. Once solid allies like Turkey have threatened to leave NATO and join the Chinese and Russian imperialists in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. A Russian pipeline deal is drawing Germany closer to Moscow’s orbit. These tremors in post-World War II alliances reflect the intensification of inter-imperialist rivalries and the greater likelihood of wider wars.

Workers Rising Up

For decades the bosses have worked tirelessly to destroy working class consciousness. Since the reversal of communism in the Soviet Union, this “dark night” has left the working class vulnerable to Trump’s anti-immigrant racism and “America First” nationalism. After decades of low wages and terrible working conditions, many are susceptible to his promise that “America will start winning again.” Trump sells nationalist rhetoric and conspiracy theory to misguide the anger of an alienated working class whose lives have been destroyed by capitalism.

Millions of workers, however, are rising up to oppose the bosses’ murderous agenda. In Belarus, thousands have taken to the streets to stage one of the largest protests there in years against a “parasite law” that imposes a tax on unemployed workers. The wave of anti-Trump and anti-fascist uprisings around the world presents us with opportunity, and also a duty to continue sharpening PL’s anti-racist and anti-imperialist politics. The inability of the U.S. bosses to recruit masses of our Black and Latin youth and students to fight and die in imperialist wars reveals the limits of their ideological hold on the working class. Armed with PL’s politics, these workers can begin to understand that capitalism can never serve their needs, and that we can fight back and win.

But to be successful, struggles must be carried out on the job and in mass organizations. We must organize multiracial committees that can lead on-the-job fights centered around anti-racism and anti-sexism

YEMEN



The bosses’ have used the recent wave of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism to ramp up calls for war in the Middle East. Trump’s recent ban of refugees and immigrants from seven majority Muslim countries includes Yemen, a country that has been terrorized by a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led bombing campaign. The proxy war between the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the pro-Saudi/U.S. regime has killed thousands of workers. Given Iran’s alliance with Russia and Yemen’s invitation to Russia to use its ports and airbases, tensions are rising between U.S. and Russian imperialists.

Trump’s first major decision as imperialist-in-chief, which was planned under the Obama administration, a botched raid on Al Qaeda in Yemen, killed at least 30 civilians, including nine children and eight women. The White House insists this slaughter was a “success.” Following the U.S. strike, the Yemeni government withdrew permission for U.S. ground raids, showing that even smaller bosses are willing to buck the U.S. ruling class.

For the U.S., maintaining access to oil has made its alliance with Saudi Arabia essential. Since 2009, the U.S. has sold the Saudi government over \$100 billion in weapons, making them the largest recipient of U.S. arms sales in the world (motherjones.com 9/21/16). Even so, the Saudi ruling class has been building closer ties with U.S. imperialist rival China, which is now the largest buyer of Saudi oil.

Over the past two decades, oil wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen have destabilized the region and the world. These wars have created more than 65 million refugees. Ultimately, this is a crisis of capitalist unemployment. The bosses need to destroy the capital and productive capacities of rivals to survive their perpetual crisis of overproduction. With much of the infrastructure in Yemen and Syria leveled by imperialist war, masses of unemployed workers have no choice but to become refugees. The laws of capitalism are driving the desperate posture of U.S. imperialism and intensifying rivalries with China and Russia that will ultimately lead to World War III.

on behalf of all workers. We must connect on-the-job struggles to the intensification of inter-imperialist rivalries. We must organize our base around the Party’s line to shut down the bosses’ racist profit system. Through struggle we can win our base to Challenge reader’s groups and ultimately to the Party, to become fighters for communism.☸

Chicago Transit Workers Push for Strike

CHICAGO, IL—"As long as we have each other, we are not alone...When my inside begins to question if this is good or bad, right or wrong, and how the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) and Mayor's Office will respond, I am made stronger when I envision the City in grid-lock because not one bus or train is moving. If I have that vision, I know the powers that be also share the same vision." As more than 300 members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 308 voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike vote, this train operator and many other workers understand that the whole damn capitalist system has to go and the working class has the power to make that happen!

Local 308 is the rail side of public transportation, ATU Local 241 is the bus side. This vote followed both locals conducting a joint "Day of Action" on December 21, to protest a CTA contract offer that includes a 2 percent "raise," an 18 percent increase in health insurance premiums and unlimited subcontracting of transit work. Nearly 10,000 CTA workers have been without a contract for a year.

Transit workers often face long shifts and more than 40-hour weeks. Accelerated discipline, a system that leads to rapid suspensions and firings, is stacked against workers from the word go, and "accelerates" short staffing and increased workloads.

Another worker attacked the CTA's "evil 2-tier wage system" as part-timers "operate the same trains, flag at the same sights, do the same platform duties, but make half of what a full time employee makes." He said that four years ago, CTA bosses thanked Locals 308 and 241 for saving them \$60 million dollars a year for the life of the contract!

Prison Labor at CTA

There is another group of union members who

pay full union dues, pay into the billion-dollar Retiree Health Care Trust, but have no benefits and are temporary. These are the "2nd Chance" workers, who have criminal records for non-violent offenses and make only \$10 an hour. This is how this racist, capitalist system works. Give tax cuts to the rich and find more and more ways to drive workers as close to poverty as possible. The whole damn system has to go!

After the strike vote, there was a vote on the 2nd Chance program. Workers who had just called for a strike vote, voted overwhelmingly that the local union should not agree to renew this poverty-wage program with the CTA. Some members complained that 2nd Chance workers get better days off and are used to take away overtime hours. Others said that by only hiring people with criminal records for entry level maintenance jobs, their children cannot get these jobs. What we really need is union scale jobs for everyone now and revolution to get rid of this racist, capitalist system as soon as possible. No one is really getting a second chance at \$10/hour. Not surprisingly both the ATU leadership and the CTA bosses want to keep the 2nd Chance Program.

Even after the defeat of Hillary Clinton in November, the union leaders remain in the hip pocket of the Democratic Party. That's why there has not been a strike since 1979. While some workers have been won to more racist ideas, more are open to the idea of a strike, and to fighting racism. With the rash of police killings of black youth and gang-related murders due to poverty and mass unemployment among black youth, more workers are also talking about the need for revolution. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is rebuilding our national concentration in mass transit. We need to build a mass base for communist revolution among transit workers from Chicago to New York to Washington, DC. We have

Transit Workers Under Racist Assault

Democratic Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the CTA President Dorval R. Carter are pushing for deeper concessions while granting tax cuts and other subsidies to big business. This is the national trend in mass transit, one of the main concentrations of, and last sources of decent pay and benefits, for black workers in the US.

More than 30,000 New York transit workers in Transit Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 are now voting on a contract that offers a 2 percent raise, but will drastically cut labor costs as thousands retire and new hires start at about two-thirds the pay, while billions are paid to the banks on interest for capital project loans. Bus drivers in Dayton, Ohio, ATU Local 1385, voted to strike only to be derailed by the ATU and TWU leadership. In December, ATU local 589 in Boston offered to negotiate wage concessions even before the contract expired. Detroit bus drivers, in ATU Local 26, signed a new contract in 2015 with starting wage of only \$12/hour. And in November, the TWU ended a strike by 5,000 Philadelphia transit workers in order to get-out-the-vote for Hillary Clinton, and then accepted a contract that cut pensions.

National freight railroad workers are also in contract talks, facing similar demands from their bosses. Chicago has the highest concentration of freight railroad workers, from nearly all of the major railroads.

our work cut out for us, but this is the work that can ultimately lead millions of workers to power. Join us!✊

Boston PL'ers Sow Communist Consciousness in Budding Fightback

BOSTON, Feb 12—From the inauguration to the Muslim Ban, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends here have been exposing fascism as an outgrowth of a capitalist system in crisis. The working class is searching for an explanation and ways to fight back.

Inauguration: Day One of Lifelong Fightback

Just hours after the Inauguration 175,000 people came to Boston from the whole New England area—New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and from south Connecticut and Rhode Island—to stand strong against Trump's racism and sexism. For many it was the first time they had ever demonstrated. There was a fighting spirit in the air. Many shared the sentiment that we can't continue to conduct business as usual. People understand that there is a crisis in the system and hundreds of people listened to Progressive Labor Party's bullhorn rally and came up to take pictures of the banner "It's not just Trump, it's capitalism."

PLP talked to people about the need to abolish capitalism because the democrats are not "our friends" either. Multiple times, PLers heard, "I agree with you."

PLP made contacts and distributed 2,000 leaflets, with the help of a lot of friends. It was electrifying to see so many people take a stand against rising fascism. It's an important opportunity for the members of PLP's inner and outer circles to deepen and develop politically. A strong base will grow the Party, as that is the only way to defeat fascism and build an egalitarian world.

Liberal Bosses, Still More Dangerous

The following Saturday, PLP held a forum: "Fascism—Then and Now," which was well attended. People from a study group gave two out of four of the presentations and a lively discussion ensued. One key point was the role of liberals in paving the way for fascism. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, whom many people mistakenly pinned their hopes on, will only disarm the working class until it's too late to fight.

These politicians, as all politicians, commitment to U.S. capitalism will keep the working class locked



within the confines of the electoral system rather than organizing in working-class interests.

Ban Borders

The following weekend PLP members went to another protest against Trump's racist travel ban. Many thousands poured onto the streets—Muslims, South East Asians, Middle Easterners, people from every region of the world, and Americans took a stalwart stand against the politics of fear and division.

PLP distributed 750 leaflets and CHALLENGEs and talked with many people about anti-capitalist ideas.

Communists made speeches and led chants on the bullhorn. One moving moment was when a multi-generational Latin family enthusiastically joined the internationalist chant, "Working people have no nation, smash racist deportations!"

Many thanked PLP for putting forth this political message, and took CHALLENGE, as did so many others.

The capitalist crisis has woken millions up to the need for fundamental change. In times like these, plenty of workers and students are open to a communist alternative, and PLP can provide that leadership.✊

Black and Red: The Untold History

History has segregated the fight against racism and the fight for an egalitarian system, communism. In reality, the two were connected like flesh and bone. Many Black fighters were dedicated communists and pro-communists of their time. Below are quotes from antiracist Marxist women and men who fought in the interest of the working class.



W.E.B. DU BOIS



CLAUDIA JONES



LANGSTON HUGHES



LUCY PARSONS

Lucy Parsons (1853—1942)
Labor Organizer, Communist
Texas

"So many able writers have shown that the unjust institutions which work so much misery and suffering to the masses have their root in governments, and owe their whole existence to the power derived from government we cannot help but believe that were every law, every title deed, every court, and every police officer or soldier abolished tomorrow with one sweep, we would be better off than now."

Chicago Police Department description of Lucy Parsons: "More dangerous than a thousand rioters..."

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868—1963)
Journalist, Educator, Communist
Massachusetts

"In 1956, I shall not go to the polls. I have not registered. I believe that democracy has so far disappeared in the United States that no 'two evils' exist. There is but one evil party with two names, and it will be elected despite all I can do or say."

Paul Robeson (1898 - 1976)
Singer, Athlete, Actor, Communist
New Jersey

"In Russia I felt for the first time like a full human being. No color prejudice like in Mississippi, no color prejudice like in Washington. It was the first time I felt like a human being... This is the basis, and I am not being tried for whether I am a Communist, I am being tried for fighting for the rights of my people, who are still second-class citizens in this United States of America."

Hosea Hudson (1898—1988)
Labor Leader, Communist
Florida

"The Communist Party taught me that the masses of people must be educated politically through struggle -- even the struggle to write a postcard, a letter, sacrificing to buy reading material and struggling to read it. Struggles to achieve people's day-to-day needs are the basis of political education"

Philip Randolph (1889—1979)
Labor Organizer, pro-communist
Florida, Harlem

"Justice is never given; it is exacted and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship."

Harry Haywood (1898—1985)
Political Activist, Communist
Nebraska

"Throughout this whole struggle, we Black students at the school had been ardent supporters of the position of Stalin and the Central Committee. Most certainly we were Stalinists -- whose policies we saw as the continuation of Lenin's. Those today who use the term "Stalinist" as an epithet evade the real question: that is, were Stalin and the Central Committee correct? I believe history has proven that they were correct."

Langston Hughes (1902—1967)
Poet, Writer, Communist
Illinois

"Put one more s in the U.S.A. / To make it Soviet. / One more s in the U.S.A. / Oh, we'll live to see it yet. / When the land belongs to the farmers / And the factories to the working men — The U.S.A. when we take control / Will be the U.S.S.A. then.

Now across the water in Russia / They have a big U.S.S.R. / The fatherland of the Soviets — But that is mighty far / From New York, or Texas, or California, too.

So listen, fellow workers, / This is what we have to do. / Put one more S in the U.S.A." - One More "S" in the U.S.A

Angelo Herndon (1913—1997)
Labor Organizer, Communist
Ohio

"I wish I could remember the exact date when I first attended a meeting of the Unemployment Council, and met up with a couple of members of the Communist Party. That date means a lot more to me than my birthday, or any other day in my life." - You Cannot Kill The Working Class

Claudia Jones (1915—1964)
Organizer, Communist
Trinidad, Harlem

"It was out of my Jim Crow experiences as a young negro woman, experiences likewise born of working-class poverty that led me to join the Young Communist League and to choose the philosophy of my life, the science of Marxism-Leninism -- that philosophy not only rejects racist ideas, but is the antithesis of them."

Ousmane Sembène (1923—2007)
Director, Producer, Writer, Communist
Senegal

"...To act so that no man dares to strike you because he knows you speak the truth, to act so that you can no longer be arrested because you are asking for the right to live, to act so that all of this will end, both here and elsewhere; that is what should be in your thoughts. That is what you must explain to others, so that you will never again be forced to bow down before anyone, but also so that no one shall be forced to bow down before you. It was to tell you this that I asked you to come, because hatred must not dwell with you." —God's Bits of Wood

Frantz Fanon (1925—1961)
Psychiatrist, Philosopher, Revolutionary
Martinique

"And it is clear that in the colonial countries the peasants alone are revolutionary, for they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. The starving peasant, outside the class system is the first among the exploited to discover that only violence pays. For him there is no compromise, no possible coming to terms; colonization and decolonization is simply a question of relative strength." —The Wretched of the Earth

Lorraine Vivian Hansberry (1930—1965)
Playwright, Director, Communist
Illinois

"...[We] must concern themselves with every single means of struggle: legal, illegal, passive, active, violent and non-violent.... They must harass, debate, petition, boycott, sing hymns, pray on steps--and shoot from their windows when the racists come cruising through their communities.... The acceptance of our condition is the only form of extremism which discredits us before our children..."

Facts vs. Fiction of the Chinese Cultural Revolution

Recently I tried to get some Chinese language practice by making small talk with a woman worker sitting next to me on an airplane to China. Somehow, the conversation got around to the Cultural Revolution. Like many workers in China you might meet today, she immediately felt compelled to tell me how that particular ten year period, 1966-1976, was a disaster for China.

This worker's idea of this period being a "disaster" for China comes from the capitalists who run China today. China's educational system, like that of the U.S. and every other capitalist country, teaches the lies that the capitalists want workers to believe—and they have the gall to call themselves the "Chinese Communist Party." China's capitalist bosses use their state power to attack the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution with a ferocity matched only by professional anticommunist academics in the U.S.

The attacks on the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution serve to mask the achievements of millions of workers won to communism, who dared to defend the 1949 Chinese Revolution, when the working class seized state power. Today, despite calling themselves "communist," the bosses hold state power in China. Our class lost power there around the time of the Cultural Revolution, and the entire world we live in is controlled by a tiny capitalist class in each country who live by the labor others do for them: the international working class.

If our class sisters and brothers are to ever smash this capitalist hell with its imperialist wars and sharpening racist and sexist attacks worldwide, the Cultural Revolution is a key piece of history to understand. Fortunately for those fighting for a worker-run, egalitarian world, that is, for real communism, there are scholars like Yiching Wu.

Masses Fought Back With Creativity and Courage

In 238 pages of *The Cultural Revolution at the Margins: Chinese Socialism in Crisis* (2014), Wu pulls together information from about 400 sources, most in Chinese and many previously unavailable, to critically examine the political trends "at the margins" of the Cultural Revolution. It is a story of vast upheaval and class war, where ordinary workers fought with courage and creativity in an effort to take China to the road of true equality, communism. This book is of particular interest to members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party, because Yiching Wu reaches many of the same conclusions that PLP published in 1971.

Now is an important moment to reexamine this history. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, and also the 50th anniversary of an exploding class war in China.

In 1967, masses of workers in the city of Shanghai expelled the fake "Communist" Party misleaders and seized control of the city, defiantly declaring it the "Shanghai Commune." Elsewhere, groups like Shengwulian in Hunan Province, the Bohai Battle Regiment in Shandong Province, and others, organized opposition to evolving systems of exploitation inside the socialist state.

They criticized the "Communist" Party's decision in the 1950s to set up a system of material incentives for party leaders and managers. They argued that such a system had created conditions for the development of a new ruling class, as it had in the Soviet Union, where capitalism was fully restored by that time. This system, which ranked cadres (managers, usually Party members) and Party leaders in over 20 grades with different salaries and access to better housing, schools, private cars, medical care and even domestic servants. Groups like Shengwulian criticized what they called the "bureaucratic capitalist" class.

History Written By The Rulers

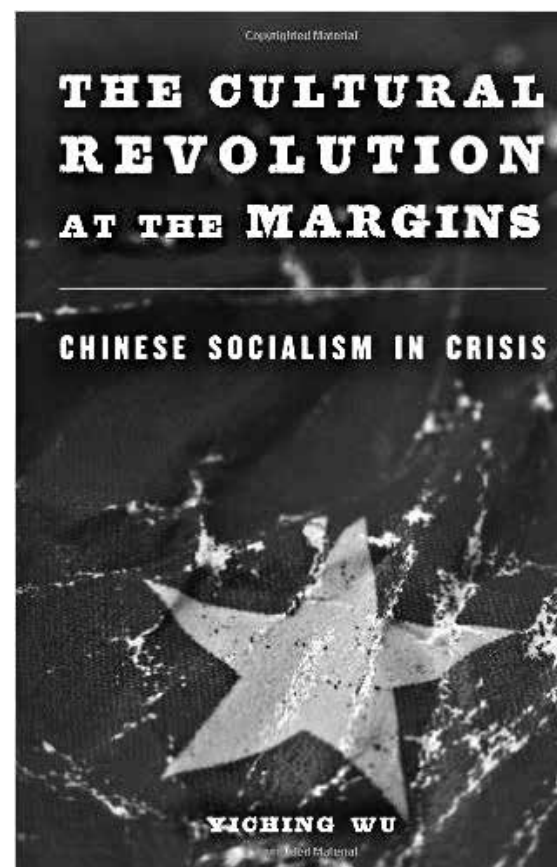
Most workers in China today, let alone workers around the world, never learn about these mass communist uprisings that shook China's new so-called "communist" capitalist class to its core.

The standard narrative of the Cultural Revolution is that Mao Zedong and other leaders inside the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) saw that the Soviet Union's way of building socialism after the workers took power there was leading back to capitalism. So, the top leaders launched the Cultural Revolution to keep the same thing from happening in China. Supposedly, under the ground rules of that CCP-sanctioned campaign, ordinary workers and students were encouraged to criticize those party members and managers who were "taking the capitalist road."

This narrative paints Mao as its central hero, who, in January of 1967, determined that enough "capitalist roaders" had been removed from power. The story goes that as soon as he died, pro-capitalist elements of the CCP and within a few years, presto! China had become the capitalist country we know today.

This story completely ignores the mass rebellions and uprisings made by the working class against the government in 1967, the year that the capitalists had supposedly been chased out. The tens of millions of workers, students, peasants and former soldiers joined mass organizations like the Shanghai Commune and Shengwulian - in opposition to what they viewed as the return of full-blown capitalism.

More and more scholarship is being published that upends the dominant narrative of the Cultural Revolution.



tion.

Today's world is under the control of competing groups of capitalists, each trying to grow their economic and political dominance (a process called "imperialism"), and world war becomes more likely every day. Creating a peaceful worker-run society without exploitation is the goal of communist revolution. The only way to prevent inter-imperialist war is to eliminate the economic system that produces imperialism, to eliminate capitalism.

Today's communists must study the great revolutions of the past, including the Cultural Revolution. The Cultural Revolution was defeated primarily because these millions of workers still held on to the idea of fighting for socialism first, and communism later—a view PLP rejected in 1982, in large part based on the experiences of the Cultural Revolution. Our literature analyzes the success and failures of the old movement elsewhere.

PLP fights on from the legacy of the Cultural Revolution. We will not stop until communist ideas are once again mass ideas, and next time, we will take communist revolution all the way.✊

Arrest of Turkish Journalist Reflects the Link of War and Fascism

On December 30, 2016, Turkish investigative journalist Ahmet Sik was arrested and charged with spreading "terrorist propaganda" for a tweet. He is among 144 journalists who are currently in jail in Turkey since the failed coup against President Erdogan last July. The right-wing ruling Justice and Development Party (AK) launched a massive purge of the police, judiciary, media, schools, and universities in response to the coup attempt. Thousands of teachers, municipal workers, and journalists have lost their jobs, and dozens of newspapers and TV stations have been closed.

Sik and journalist Nedim Sener were previously jailed in 2011-2012, and Sik's book, *The Imam's Army*, about the cleric Fethullah Gulen, was banned and never printed. Gulen lives in the U.S. and has been blamed by Erdogan for the attempted coup.

Most sources claim that the media crackdown is a response to the coup attempt. However, if you pull the camera back a bit you see endless and spreading wars throughout the Middle East. These most recent wars were first launched by the US invasion of Afghanistan 16 years ago, followed three years later by the US invasion of Iraq. Both of these wars still continue, even as more countries become involved. Meanwhile attacks against journalists, and journalism are spreading.

In 2016, while doing their jobs, 30 journalists were killed in the Middle East through targeted murders or bomb attacks, though some were caught in a fire fight.

In Syria, Iraq, and Yemen most of these were freelancers under 30 years old, with little or no protective gear or safety training.

During Israel's offensive against Gaza in 2014, Palestinian media centers were targeted and destroyed, and about a dozen Palestinian journalists were killed.

Currently in Iran journalists are being sentenced to public floggings, high fines, and prison.

As the U.S. wars spread to engulf the entire region, press freedom is high on the casualty list. The local rulers can only carry out this endless and growing battle for control of resources and labor through fascist rule. Turkey has been a major player in the war, on all sides, being used as a staging area for U.S. bombing missions and as a gateway for foreign fighters to enter Syria. The Turkish army has also ruthlessly attacked Kurdish forces, allied with the U.S., who are fighting ISIS.

These fascist attacks are also developing in the U.S., with a striking resemblance to Turkey. Under Trump, we now have lies that masquerade thinly as "alternative facts," and the press has been labeled "the opposition party." Six reporters were arrested on Inauguration Day,

covering the J20 protests, and are facing felony charges. But this didn't start with Trump.

Reporters, including Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, were arrested, threatened, and assaulted while covering the North Dakota Pipeline protests, as well as marches and rebellions against racist police terror in New York and Ferguson, Missouri. The Obama Administration prosecuted nine cases under the Espionage Act, more than all previous administrations combined, in an attempt to silence whistle blowers like Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning, and stop government leaks to the press, all in the name of Homeland Security. "Liberal" Obama opened the door for "fascist" Trump to go further.

Fascism is the domestic method used by the rulers to prepare for and wage war. The only solution to war and fascism, both inevitable and recurring stepchildren of capitalism, is communist revolution in Turkey, the Middle East, and around the world. Only an end to capitalism will put an end to its absolute need to exploit, murder, and rob for the sake of profits. Only a working-class revolution, led by its communist party, PLP, can abolish capitalism and replace it with a worker-run system that will no longer require war, fascism, racism, sexism, and nationalism.✊

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Lynchburg Fights Trump’s Immigration Policy

For several months I have been attending the Unitarian church in Lynchburg, Virginia and sharing CHALLENGE with members of a discussion group there. Contacts made through this activity led us to the recently formed Seven Hills Progressive Society (SHPS). Four members of this group joined Progressive Labor Party (PLP) for a discussion after the Women’s March in Washington, DC. Then on February 5, SHPS had its own demonstration at the Fifth and Federal roundabout protesting Trump’s immigration plans. Over 200 people showed up. We had expected about 40! Chants included “No Hate, No Fear, Refugees are Welcome Here”.

I used my experience in PLP to propose the rally, share CHALLENGE and organize some of the logistics of the rally and march. The politics of the protesters were diverse but there was a great sense of solidarity. In a city mainly famous for Jerry Falwell’s Liberty University one protester was quoted as saying, “We believe that Lynchburg is a diverse city. We derive our strength from that diversity, and it’s our purpose here to demonstrate that we’re an inclusive city, that we’re willing to embrace people of all different walks of life.”

Another said “The fact that we’re in Lynchburg, Virginia, speaks volumes about what we’re witnessing now. If it can happen here — if we can organize a grassroots resistance in Lynchburg — it can happen anywhere.”

We have much work to do here to make this a reality including reaching out to immigrant farm workers and Black workers but this is a great start and the multiracial message is a hopeful sign.

Multiracial Protest against Arby’s Sexist Exploitations

I went to a rally on February 8 against an Arby’s in California with some students from my college. It was a powerful multiracial demonstration against the Arby’s bosses who refuse to pay more than \$150,000 in a settlement for wage theft, intimidation, and sexual harassment.

The workers who spoke said that Arby’s forced them to work extra unpaid hours and that they often didn’t get meal breaks or bathroom breaks. One worker had to quit because she couldn’t get any breaks to take her medication. When one worker threatened to report them, she was physically assaulted. They filed a lawsuit against Arby’s and won!

However, one lesson I learned from this rally is that just because a worker wins a lawsuit doesn’t mean they will get justice. Because the bosses have state power, they can just decide not to pay the lawsuit. Workers will continue to be attacked and not get any compensation for it until the working class runs society.

Even though it was horrible to hear about all the conditions that these mostly-immigrant workers have

to endure, it was so energizing and powerful to see everyone fight back. It was a multiracial group of Latin, Pilipino, Black, and white workers all fighting together. After doing chants and hearing speeches, we occupied the Arby’s and demanded they pay the lawsuit settlement. Our chants were fairly class conscious, with chants like “the workers united will never be defeated!” and we chanted in English, Spanish, and Tagalog.

This multiracial group of workers is an energizing example of how workers can build unity and fight back. I hope that the students I came with and I can bring back some of the energy to our campus. More actions like these will help us get one step closer to a communist revolution!

Name-Change Struggle a School for Antiracism

The effort to change the name of my high school (J.E.B. Stuart, a confederate general killed in the U.S. Civil War) has moved into a new phase (see Challenge, 8/12/2016). The Fairfax County School Board deadlocked over whether to make the change last summer despite impassioned pleas and protests by current Stuart students, alumni, and residents (see a video at <http://bit.ly/2aSPchz>).

Instead, in a classic delaying tactic, they set up an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the pros and cons of the possible name change. After many months, the Superintendent finally established a committee of about 30 people including supporters and opponents of the name change to work on this. At our first meeting, sparks flew. People opposing the name change have trouble defending this old racist, so they instead attacked committee members who have supported the students’ demands for a change, saying they shouldn’t be on the committee, distorted the intentions of the Students for Change group, and raised lies about history.

As the process continues, supporters of the name change took heart from the fact that Yale University renamed one of its residential colleges, previously named for John C. Calhoun, an ardent racist and leader of the pro-secession movement in the South in the years prior to the Civil War. Yale only did this after a huge outpouring of student and faculty anger at the school’s presidential original decision to keep the name in place.

Pro-name-change members of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Committee are pushing hard for education programs at the school about the name change debate, despite the efforts of the Principal to block all discussion of the name change. She claims such discussion is a “distraction” from education. But fighting against racism provides some of the best education possible, and we intend to pursue the name change until victory.

Failure to Fight Racism Is Suicidal

The capitalist-created inequalities between sections of the working class, in every country in the world, cause illness and devastation, and shorten lives. But since capitalism rests on two opposed classes, between the small class of exploiters (capitalists) and the massive class of the exploited (workers), there is far more inequality between those classes—and it is immediate and extreme. While the capitalists to convince workers to stay separate has done much work, workers have far more in common with each other than with any of their bosses. The bosses’ racist lies are used to keep capitalism running and profit rolling in, but when workers of the world reject those lies, we can smash their system.

In order to maintain control of the economic and political system and to weaken workers’ resistance to exploitation, the capitalists foster racism and racist inequality among the working class. This enables them to steal the most value from workers’ labor. No group of workers benefits from this. By dividing and weakening working-class resistance, allowing capitalists to lower our standards of living even further—racism causes illness and shortens lives—including amongst those who are tricked into supporting it.

Many scientific and sociological studies have shown the relationship between inequality and stress. One’s state of health and stress depends on many factors—income, wealth, housing, nutrition, and access to medical care. The working class endures extreme stress stemming from job security versus unemployment, expecting to be accosted by cops on the street or pounding down your door, not knowing where the next meal is coming from and where you are going to sleep, and countless other traumas. The hormones associated with stress contribute to heart disease and stroke, interfere with strength and endurance, slow growth in children, and interfere with their ability to concentrate in school.

While the life expectancy of Black workers has always been lower than that of white workers due to racism, a recent study discovered that poorer U.S. white workers, with lesser amounts of schooling, are increasingly dying at younger ages than before (The Atlantic, 1/29/16). The fastest rising death rate is among white workers in the U.S. south, where the legacy of racism from slavery is still the most intense.

By falling for racist lies, white workers sign their own early death warrants and contribute to their own worsening state of health. This is a worldwide phenomenon—whether in the U.S. and Europe, higher-caste workers in India, or Japanese workers supporting discrimination against other Asian workers. Racist divisions among the working class hurt us all, and the only way to free the entire working class from the exploitation that kills us is to fight back together. Our common oppression is the basis of working-class unity and fightback. All workers need to join with PLP to unite the working class, giving the fight against the oppression of capitalism far more power.

When the South Side of Chicago Saw Red

Continued from page 8

the doctor refused to release the patient.

The Struggle Against Nationalism

[The article-goes on to describe a clash between communists and Garveyites (black nationalists), who competed for the attention and allegiance of workers at the open Forum in Washington Park, where hundreds of black workers would gather daily to discuss politics.]

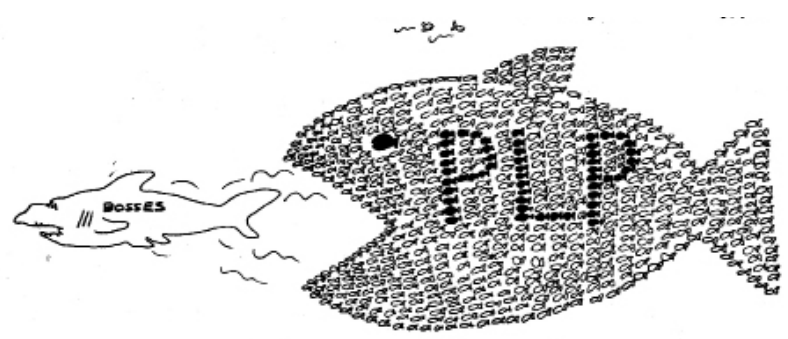
At the Forum, trouble was brewing between the communists and the Garveyites. A back-to-Africa movement which, some years before, had for a short time won a tremendous following. One Sunday in August the Garveyites marched on the Forum, dressed in gaudy uniforms and led by a bellowing brass band. Three times they marched around the Forum, as Joshua did at Jericho. Then they demanded that the Forum be turned over to them.

[News then came in of an eviction being carried on at] a house owned by a woman Garveyite at 41st and St. Lawrence Avenue. The family and neighbors appealed to the Unemployed Council for aid in replacing the furniture. When the Council arrived, they armed resistance from Garveyites, stationed with revolvers in the house

and adjoining and backed up by the police. [Note. whose side these nationalists were on!] Afterwards it was found that hundreds of Garveyites had come in trucks and cars from Indiana for this battle.

That night 1,200 workers were mobilized at the Forum. Many wanted to go right out, then and there, and mop up the Garveyites, but the communist leaders knew that such a fight would result in a massacre of workers. They suggested instead a demonstration the next day at the scene of the eviction. A steering committee was elected....A few brave workers were assigned to guard the furniture during the night.

At nine the next morning a tremendous aggregation of from 15,000 to 20,000 people gathered at 41 Street and St. Lawrence.... [A committee was elected on the spot; it carried the demonstration’s demands to the local relief station, where a new home-was secured for the evicted family, and the rent was paid by the relief agency.]



Victorious, the committee returned to the demonstration. Following their report, [members of the Council] spoke, pointing out the role of the Unemployed Council and explaining how mass pressure had gained this victory. Then the furniture was loaded on the truck and moved to the new home.

[We can clearly see that the workers of Chicago have a long history of multiracial unity. But capitalist schools ignore this history. The school bosses don’t want youth to learn how to fight back from our forefathers. It’s up to PLP teachers and students to bring this history to workers and youth.]✪

Capitalist State Terrorism: Hundreds Arrested During Inauguration Protests

WASHINGTON, DC—The inauguration of fascist Trump on January 20 was greeted with militant demonstrations on the streets of Washington DC. At a march advertised as the anti-fascist and anti-capitalist, some anarchists or provocateurs committed acts of vandalism. The police responded by rounding up everyone who happened to be standing on a nearby block, including lawyers, journalists, and peaceful demonstrators, including three students from New York who had only just arrived. The cops used military weapons like flashbang grenades and beat many demonstrators with batons.

After surrounding the group of 230, the cops pepper sprayed them, handcuffed everyone, and kept them on the street or in buses for hours, without food, water or bathrooms and refused them phone calls to their lawyers. Most people were moved at least three times, keeping supporters in the dark about their locations. After their release 36 hours later, the accused had to go to the arrest precincts to retrieve their belongings, where they were told that their phones and cameras would not be returned. Using data mining equipment the police are able to rapidly gather all information stored on a phone.

The day after the arrests hundreds of supporters showed up at the courthouse, including public defenders who assured us that the cases would be re-

viewed and the innocent would be discharged without charges. This is how it used to be. In this case however, everyone including lawyers, reporters, bystanders, and peaceful protesters were charged with felony riot, which carries a 10-year sentence. Over the next few weeks more than 200 of the arrestees were indicted on these same charges. According to the head of the DC Trial Lawyers' Association, this could well be a tactic to avoid a judge's discretion at a preliminary hearing, where many, if not most, cases would likely have been dismissed for lack of evidence (Washington Post, 2/3/17).

Resist Intimidation

Lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild stepped up right away to guarantee counsel for all. Valuable as their aid has been, they have advised all the accused not to speak about their cases. This is not the kind of advice that is going to build a movement to fight the overt turn to the right of the ruling class. The accused students are planning to be at a meeting on campus this week to build support and demand the same from the administration. When they go to court it will be with as many supporters as possible. This is the correct response to the intimidation and divisions along racist lines that Trump and capitalists are using to try and quell the anger of workers and students. Just as millions have turned out from small towns to large



cities to oppose Muslim-bashing and immigrant bans, masses must be mobilized to defend those targeted by the capitalist injustice system.

The fascist tactics and ideas of Trump are not just the aberrations of a madman. The U.S. is losing its clout in the world, no longer a major economic engine or controller of resources and soon not to

be the paramount military power. The result will be more unemployment and more wars, no matter who is in office. As revolt grows, so will repression. We must all see ourselves as part of a movement to get rid of this capitalist system. To do that we must fearlessly fight for the oppressed and all whom the system attacks. See you in court.☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

U.S. bombing of Laos, killing 200,000, set up Obama's drones in Asia

NYT Book Review (2/5) of "A Great Place to Have a War; America in Laos and the Birth of a Military CIA" — ...the United States...between 1963 and 1974 dropped two million tons of bombs on the country, more than the total loosed on Germany and Japan together during World War II....That made Laos,...slightly smaller than Michigan, the most heavily bombed nation in history. More than four decades [later]...unexploded ordnance is still killing and maiming Laotians....

...The so-called secret war in Laos...set a pattern for future conflicts and especially for the C.I.A.'s paramilitary role. "Laos would prove so successful — for presidents and for the C.I.A....— that it would become a template for a new type of large, secret war for decades to come...."

...American military involvement in Southeast Asia prefigured...the wars of the last 15 years. Then, as now, the United States intervened repeatedly in a troubled region...at a huge cost in lives and spending, and with dismal results. The use of the C.I.A...allowed the fighting to be hidden from the public, in Laos as in Obama's drone program in Pakistan and Yemen....

American bombing...eras[ed] large swaths of Laos's landscape and kill[ed] 10 percent of its population....Nixon escalated the bombing from about 15 sorties per day to 300 per day....The eventual death toll would be 200,000.

France: rebellion hits cops' racist rape of black man

NYT, 2/9 — Youths set cars and trash bins ablaze and vandalized buildings...around Paris..., venting rage for the fourth straight day...[after] police had beaten and raped a young black man they arrested....

The police have used tear gas several times...to disperse angry crowds, and...fired live rounds....Five peo-

ple were convicted...of "ambushing" police forces....

The unrest...reflects persistent tensions between the police and residents...where people from immigrant backgrounds are often concentrated and where unemployment is high, especially among young people....

Youths in the area complain about frequent racial profiling by the police....

A similar case in August, when Adam Traoré, a 24-year-old black man, died of asphyxiation in police custody...set off days of violent clashes....

...The 22-year-old man whose arrest ignited the [current] protests...was known by the local authorities for "exemplary conduct...."

...The young man said the police officers had insulted and hit him and that one of them "took his baton and shoved it into my buttocks."

The man was hospitalized with serious injuries to his rectum and bruises on his face and skull....

...A recent study...found that the probability of being stopped by the police for an ID check was 20 times as high for young men who were "perceived as black or Arab" as it were for the general population.

Building union hacks back Trump, sell out rank-and-file

NYT, 2/7 — ...Two weeks ago...several smiling union leaders strolled out of the White House...and declared their firm allegiance to President Trump.

Sean McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions...pledged to work hand in glove with the new administration on energy, trade and infrastructure, while one...described the Inaugural Address as "a great moment for working men and women."

Terry O'Sullivan, head of Laborers' International Union of North America, put it on MSNBC: "The president's a builder. We're builders."

But the edifice that Mr. Trump is building is rigged to collapse on the very people the unions are supposed to defend. His cuts...will make them less safe on the job....Trump violated the rights of workers in his Las Vegas hotel to unionize and bargain collectively. His proposed cuts to corporate taxes will eviscerate the public services on which they depend....

Trump's climate-change denying agenda...is a catastrophe for the...working class....It's working and precariously unemployed people who tend to live in homes that are most vulnerable to extreme weather (as...during Hurricane Katrina and Super-storm Sandy) and whose savings, if they have any, can be entirely wiped out by a disaster....

Other unionized workers, like New York's Taxi Workers Alliance, showed their opposition to Trump's travel ban by refusing fares to and from Kennedy Airport during the protests....

...Some union heads are creating a rift by showing so little solidarity with their fellow union members, particularly immigrants and public sector workers who find themselves under assault by Trump.

All time high: kids killed by explosive remnants of imperialist war

NYT, 2/7 — ...Months after intense fighting...Abdul Basit...picked up an unexploded shell and it blew up. Basit, 14, and his brother Haroon, 8, were killed, and 12 other children ages 7 to 15, were wounded.

The shell had been "fired from a helicopter...and it hadn't exploded," said...an uncle of the two brothers....

...The UN Mission...reported that 2016 had been another year of record civilian casualties in the country...[with] a 65 percent jump in the number of children killed or wounded by explosive remnants....another all-time high figure....

...The report also said casualties caused by aerial operations were the highest since the...system started tracking them in 2009 and had doubled compared with 2015....

...Civilians are being killed and maimed by...unexploded ordinances left behind by coalition forces around the bases they abandoned....

...More children are dying...after battles...have ended, as none of the combatants bother to clear explosive remnants afterward....

...As the American-led international coalition has closed down bases...more casualties have been reported from ordinances exploding in areas that had been used as firing ranges and then abandoned by coalition forces.

THE ANTI-RACIST HISTORY NEVER TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS

WHEN THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO SAW RED

The following is an excerpt from Left Front, a journal put out during the early 1930s by the Chicago John Reed Club, a communist Party-led organization of radical writers and artists.

This article focuses on the CP's militant opposition to evictions, an opposition that rapidly gained for the communists a massive working-class base.

Since May Day, the holiday of the international working class, is less two months away, readers of CHALLENGE may be interested in taking a lesson from the boldness of the 1930s conunists in confronting (and returning) the violence of the police. Note the multiracial unity of workers, and the dead-end politics of the Black nationalists.

Note: any comments placed between brackets [] are interjections intended to refer places and events to the present day.

“The South Side Sees Red”

The funeral of two of the Negroes slain in the August 3rd Eviction Battle, Abe Grey and John O'Neil, was one of the largest and most impressive demon strations ever held in Chicago. Forty thousand Negroes marched in the funeral procession with twenty five thousand white workers—and a hundred thousand more, both white and black, flanked them on the line of march! The police did all in their power to break up the parade, to route street cars between the marchers, and to intimidate the spectators. But at each police tactic the marchers closed ranks, and the procession went on. From open windows and crowded fire escapes, from every available vantage point came shouts and wild applause as the line of march broke into song—The International.

Following the August 3rd massacre hundreds of Negroes joined the Communist party, while-thousands entered the Unemployed Councils. But-this apparent success was in reality a serious defeat. For the Party and the Councils did not yet have the firm organizational foundation needed before large numbers of new elements could be taken in. The new members, through their low level of political developement, and the opportunistic attitude of some of them, weakened the organizations, leading to the later setbacks.

The Unemployed Councils also were to suffer later for a lack of proper direction at this crucial moment. They were fighting the charities, forcing them to give relief. They were fighting evictions. But the unemployed workers were given nothing else to fight. If the struggle of the unemployed had been tied up with their former jobs, they might have been united in mutual struggles with those who still had jobs.

But for the moment the Communist movement received a tremendous stimulus. Dearborn and Federal Streets, in the neighborhood of the massacre, became the “Red Wedding” of Chicago. In one block near 40th Street and Dearborn there were two Com munist Party units, a Women's Club, an I.L.D. [International Labor Defense] branch, and an Unemployed Council. Posters announcing demonstrations and meetings covered every wall. The membership ofUn employed Council No.4 grew tobetween nine and ten thousand. [This is where the north end of Robert Taylor Homes, a huge post World War II housing project. What would PLP do if we had such a poilitical base there today!] A crew of five hundred workers roamed the streets, singing Solidarity, and looking for evictions.

The period after August 3rd, 1931, was unquestionably a new high point in the growth of the Communist

movement on the South Side.

Police Try to Kill Movement Through Violence

For several months the Police kept their distance. Then, in January, 1932, the Unemployed Councils called a demonstration at the Abraham Lincoln Center Relief Station on Oakwood Boulevard.

A committee had been selected to present demands. But the police refused to let them enter the building. The leaders had expected this and had for mulated a clever plan. Before the demonstration a white member of the committee, Madden, had entered the station as a client. When he heard the militant songs of the crowd, he walked into the super visor's office and laid the aemands on her desk. Immediately he was arrested.

Word of the arrest reached the comrades on the street. Their leaders... began speaking to the crowd, telling them of the arrest and announcing that they would rescue Madden unless he was released in ten minutes. While they were talking the police with drew into the lobby of Lincoln Center, barricading themselves behind the six large doors.

Jackson, watch in hand, said “Time's up!”

The crowd surged forward. The police opened the doors just enough to swing at the workers with their clubs. One Negro took the club away from a police captain. The other workers beat the captain with his own club until he was groggy, when they pulled him through the door and into the middle of the crowd where he was soundly thrashed.

The captain bellowed for help. Brown Squire says then the fight started. The women and kids dashed into the alleys and dug up bricks, milk bottles and rocks, then brought them to the comrades to throw. Many workers and police were slugged. Lots of us were arrested when the riot squad got there and began shooting.

Among th comrades was Edith Miller, a white member of the Young Communist League, who was chased into a doorway, then beaten so badly that she had to be taken to the Bridewell Hospital with a fractured skull. A Negro with a cork leg was knocked unconscious during the melee at the door, but was rescued by a comrade who knocked down the policeman dragging him to a patrol wagon.

[That night thirty police with machine guns terrorized homes of suspected Party members on the South Side. At one they apprehended four youths.]

These included “Thomas, a Negro member of the Young Communist League, who had been arrested and warned before, two Jewish comrades who happened to be present, and Tony Grenot, a Negro with a light skin and curly hair whom they mistook for a Jew.

Calling the Jews filthy names and shouting, “We'll teach you to hang around with ni**ers,” they lined the four boys up with their faces against the wall and their arms stretched above their heads.

“Then,” says Joe Jackson, “They hit 'em across the back of the head with blackjacks and butted their faces against the wall. After that they smashed the furniture into kindling wood, even tearing down the partitions. Finally they Jet the women and children go and loaded sixteen men and boys into patrol wagons.

“In the Wabash Avenue Station, that night all the police and plain clothes men in the district were called in. Then they brought the prisoners out of their cells.

The officers lined up about two to three feet apart. Tony Grenot and the two white comrades were forced down the line and beaten unconscious with police clubs, while the other comrades watched. Their faces looked like bloody beef. Tony was put into the same cell with me, but by morning we had persuaded the turnkey to send him to Bridewell Hospital.”

The next day a demonstration was held at the police station to protest against the attack on the council. No one was allowed within four blocks of the station. All whites were arrested and beaten half to death [by the police]. A salesman, in the neighborhood on business, was among those beaten.

[The article goes on to show that this sort of police repression only strengthened the resolve of the Communist-led movement against racism. The movement expanded to address many issues beyond evictions and relief, and it built multiracial unity in many ways.]

Workers, Black and White, Fight Back

In January, the Negroes took a prominent part in the famous demonstration at the Japanese consulate, Tribune Tower—many were beaten by police or trampled by horses. In March an important meeting was called by the American Consolidated Trades Council, a federation of Negro unions, to lay plans for combat-ing the open Jim Crowism of construction workers on the new Jim Crow Provident Hospital at 51st and Vincennes Avenue.

On April 27, three thousand unemployed participated in the first Stock Yards Hunger March. On May 5, two hundred Negro and white ex-service men left on the first bonus march. Hundreds of workers went with them to 119 Street, and they were presented with truckloads of food, gathered from all parts of the city. In the National Nominating Convention of the Communist Party in May, the Negro groups took a leading part. Herbert Newton of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights opened the convention.

In June 1932, a mass picket of the Provident Hospital was held under the direction of Edward L. Doty of the American Consolidated Trades Council, in protest against the Jim Crow policy of the A. F. of L. in the construction of this Jim Crow hospital.

Again, in July, another mass picket won concessions in pay and recognition of the Negro Electrical Wrokers' Union. This picketing was supported by Negro tinsmiths, lathers, plumbers and steamfitters who were not admitted by the A.F. of L.

During the spring and summer several demonstrations were held at relief stations to demand better treatment for unemployed Negroes. During one demonstration at Lincoln Center news was brought that a family was being evicted at 37th and Indiana Avenue. Five thousand Negroes began to march to the scene of the eviction. As they passed Wendell Phillips High School some hoodlums tore a Democratic election sign from a truck. A henchman ran out of the Democratic headquarters, and began firing into the workers, shooting Madden in the shoulder. The police as usual arrested the leaders of the demonstration: Squire, Poin-dexter, and James Ross. Madden was rushed to the hospital at 38 and Wabash Avenue. In a short time Murphy of the Red Squad arrived and demanded that he be alowed to take Madden to the Bridewell Hospital, but

Continued on page 6

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